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Ontario Women's Directorate

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES NOVEMBER AS WOMAN ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Raising Awareness About Abuse Against Women And Finding Solutions

QUEEN'S PARK – The McGuinty government is marking November as Woman Abuse Prevention Month as a clear statement that violence against any woman is unacceptable, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Sandra Pupatello, announced today.

November has been recognized as Wife Assault Prevention Month in Ontario since 1986, and this year the name was changed to Woman Abuse Prevention Month.

"Women and their children have the right to live their lives free of fear of violence," said Pupatello. "We all share responsibility for their protection and safety. For its part, the McGuinty government is taking critical steps needed to prevent abuse and increase support for women if abuse does occur to break the cycle of violence."

Last December, the McGuinty government launched its comprehensive, four-year $66 million, Domestic Violence Action Plan to enhance community supports, strengthen the justice system response, and use early intervention, prevention and public education strategies to help reduce domestic violence. Recent announcements include:

- $2.5 million for counselling support services
- $1.9 million for language interpreter services
- $4.6 million to help mobilize communities to address violence against women, and to help foster healthy, equal relationships among youth
- $2 million to help 98 women's shelters and second-stage housing providers upgrade and improve their facilities
- $300,000 for specialized legal services for women who have been assaulted
- $1.9 million to improve access to sexual assault programs.

"Violence against women will not be tolerated by the McGuinty government," said Pupatello. "We have changed the name from Wife Assault Prevention Month to reflect the sad reality that women in all types of relationships can be subject to abuse. Together with women's organizations across Ontario, we agree that this new designation more accurately represents the magnitude of the problem and the work being done to find solutions."

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